

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Tomoya Takahashi | Examiner: | Unassigned |
| Serial No: | To be assigned | Art Unit: | Unassigned |
| Filed: | Herewith | Docket: | 17302 |
| For: | ILLUMINATION CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ENDOSCOPES | Dated: | December 4, 2003 |

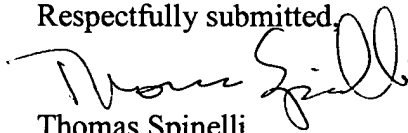
Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Sir:

Applicant in the above-identified application hereby claims the right of priority in connection with Title 35 U.S.C. § 119 and in support thereof, will submit in due course a certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-329566 filed October 26, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 4, 2003



Thomas Spinelli